

7TH AFRICAN POSTAL REGULATORS FORUM
22nd June 2025 – Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania

DECLARATION

The 7th edition of the African Postal Regulators Forum was held on 23rd June 2025 at the PAPU Tower in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on the sidelines of the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU).

Participants listened with keen interest to presentations and panel discussions on the sub-themes:

- **“Regulatory, technical and financial challenges of Postal Service Financing”**; and
- **“Solutions and outlook for sustainable postal service financing”**.

During the Forum, participants noted the following challenges in financing universal postal service:

- No cost accounting;
- Unsuitable legal framework for postal services;
- The scope of universal postal service, particularly its definition and content, are not tailored to the needs of postal customers;
- Insufficient or even no funding from public funds, as these are redirected to other government priorities;
- No reliable pricing system for postal services;
- Inefficient reserved services that are not respected and whose contribution to service financing is hard to measure.
- Lack of expertise within the postal sector to introduce and manage cost accounting.

Participants noted the following solutions in financing universal postal service:

- Monetize the physical and digital networks of postal services;
- Pool transport infrastructure;
- Designate postal services as a key player in development;
- Promote public-private partnerships;

- Redefine the scope of universal postal services to include digital services.

Participants noted the prerequisites for introducing cost accounting:

- Training and skills
- Establish a reliable information system
- Have reliable data
- Define and classify costs related to financial services
- Establish internal processes and procedures
- Solid involvement of senior postal officials
- Strategic planning
- Establish a steering committee including representatives of the regulatory authorities
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Following the deliberations, participants made the following recommendations:

1. Member States to ensure that:

1.1 Postal operators:

- introduce cost accounting
- Establish the prerequisites for introducing cost accounting

1.2 Regulatory authorities:

- Assist designated operators in introducing cost accounting
- Regularly offset the net cost of the universal postal service through the compensation fund.

1.3. Ministries in charge of postal services:

- Update the legal frameworks for postal services, including redefining the content and obligations of universal postal service;
- Make the postal sector a government priority;
- Effectively implement subsidies for designated operators.

2. The PAPU General Secretariat:

- Conduct studies on best practices in financing universal postal services;
- Advocate with governments to strengthen the role of postal services
- Harmonize legal frameworks for postal services;
- Promote collaboration between postal services and regulatory authorities;
- Strengthen collaboration between specialized institutions of the African Union;
- Propose a uniform addressing system.

On behalf of participants attending the 7th Postal Regulators Forum and on my own behalf, I wish to express appreciation to:

- The authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Ministry responsible for Postal Services, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC), the organizers of the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council, as well as the people of Tanzania for their warm hospitality and excellent facilitation of this Forum;
- The PAPU General Secretariat for proposing highly topical theme and sub-themes, as well as seasoned panelists and moderators;
- The presenters, panellists and moderators for their sterling presentations and contributions to the advancement of postal financial inclusion.

Done in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 23rd June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION No. 00/PAPU/AC/XLII/2025
On Postal Regulation

The Administrative Council of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), meeting during its 43rd Ordinary Session from 24th to 25th June 2025 at the PAPU Tower in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

Mindful of the PAPU Convention;

Further mindful of the Detailed Regulations of the PAPU Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Council;

Mindful of Resolution No. 06/PAPU/AC/XXXVIII/2019 on the organization of an annual Postal CEOs Forum;

Acknowledging that universal postal service (UPS) financing remains a pressing issue for PAPU Member States;

Noting the Declaration from the 7th African Postal Regulators Forum held on 23rd June 2025 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

Urges Member States to ensure that:

- **Ministries in charge of postal services:**
 - Update the legal framework for postal services, in particular by redefining the content and obligations of the universal postal service;
 - Make the postal sector a government priority;
 - Effectively implement the subsidies planned for designated operators.
- **Postal operators establish:**
 - Establish the prerequisites for the implementation of cost accounting;
 - Implement cost accounting.
- **Regulatory authorities:**
 - Support designated operators in the implementation of cost accounting;
 - Compensate on a regular basis the net cost of universal postal service through the compensation fund.

INSTRUCTS:

The General Secretariat to implement this Recommendation.

Done in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 25th June 2025.